

# News

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, February 18, 2003  
2:00 P.M.

## **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

**CONTACT:** Rosanne Pack  
(302) 659-2210  
(302) 270-9143  
Michele Ackles  
(302) 547-5499

## **UPDATE, EXPLANATION OF ROAD CONDITIONS IN DELAWARE UNNECESSARY TRAVEL DISCOURAGED**

### *DelDOT SNOW REMOVAL CREWS CONTINUE WORK ON ROADWAYS STATEWIDE*

Delaware Department of Transportation crews continue to battle the results of major snowfall statewide; however, many roads are not safe for travel and many remain impassable. Officials remind drivers to be aware of road conditions before attempting to travel. While great progress has been made on most major roadways, it is important that travelers know that a storm of this size means different roadway conditions than most drivers are accustomed to.

To assist the public in making driving decisions, DelDOT issues the following information regarding specific road conditions and explanations of terms:

- Primary or major roads, including I-95, 495 and 295, SR 1, US 13, US 113 and US 202, are for the most part clear and passable. In the case of the Interstate system, this means that most travel lanes are completely open, and bare pavement may be visible. On SR 1, US 13, US 113, the roadways are passable, but this does not mean that the travel lanes are completely plowed to bare pavement. There is a snow coating on the travel lanes and in areas where high winds have been a problem, it is possible

that two travel lanes can drop to only one passable lane, without much warning.

Motorists need to be aware of these conditions and adjust their travel speeds accordingly.

- Secondary roadways that have been plowed and are passable include many of the state numbered routes, among those are New Castle County Routes 2, 4, 7, and 896, and Kent and Sussex Routes 6, 300, 10, 12, 14, 18, 24, 26 and 54. Again, these roads have been plowed and are passable, but this means that cars will have to navigate these roadways on snow covered surfaces.
- Major effort is being devoted to breaking open many of the tertiary or lesser-traveled roads. Many of these are snow-covered with drifts in excess of 3-5 feet and they require larger snow equipment to first open the road before regular snow plows can get in to clear or level snow on the road surface. The number of snow breaking trucks available in Delaware is limited.

The road clearing efforts have been complicated by a snowstorm that hit the state with two strikes, the first beginning very early Saturday morning and the second phase coming on very early Sunday morning. Snow clearing operations have been nearly continuous since that time. Officials continue to urge the public to restrict driving on all but the better-cleared primary and secondary roads.

**---END---**